

# P R E S S    R E L E A S E

For:               IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Student Loans of North Dakota Default Rate Lower Than National Average**

Bismarck, ND – Student Loans of North Dakota (SLND), a division of Bank of North Dakota, received high marks with an official rate of 3.8 percent, compared with the national average of 5.2 percent, according to data released recently by the U.S. Department of Education. The figure represents the composite rate for both the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and the Federal Direct Student Loan Program. The cohort default rate represents the number of student loan borrowers who enter repayment during the 12 month period ending September 30 and default by September 30 of the following year.

“The recent statistics reinforce what we already know,” said Bank of North Dakota president, Eric Hardmeyer. “North Dakota students take higher education and their repayment responsibilities seriously, which is reflected in the fact that North Dakota continues to have one of the lowest default rates in the nation.”

Student loan guaranty agencies, such as SLND-Guarantor, invest significant resources in default prevention as part of their commitment to students and borrowers and their mission to provide quality customer service to participating schools. To prevent defaults, SLND-Guarantor suggests that students: 1) Maintain a current address with their lender, 2) Contact lenders if you are returning to school in order to take advantage of in-school deferments or the postponement of payments, and, 3) If you are having financial difficulties, contact your lender at once for available options. You may qualify for a postponement of payments or may want to consider another repayment plan to provide some financial relief.

“Part of our low default rate is attributed to the partnerships maintained between our schools, lenders, and guarantor,” said Julie Kubisiak, Director of Student Loans of North Dakota. “Our students, however, deserve most of the credit. They understand the importance of repayment and with our ability to work independently with each student they are more likely to meet their obligation.”

SLND is administered by Bank of North Dakota and offers a variety of loan programs to help students and parents finance a college education.

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